

## **Your Dog, Your Responsibility.**

Everyone has heard the old axiom that “A dog is a man’s best friend.” They provide us with companionship, affection and protection and deserve both your protection and ours in return for their loyalty. In a big city like Akron, dogs can cause problems. Unleashed dogs may tear up trash bags on neighbors’ lawns, chase mail carriers or delivery persons and frighten or bite other people or animals. Dogs that constantly bark or howl can be annoying, as well as keep people awake during the night. These types of problems can be eliminated when pet owners understand their responsibilities.

It is the duty of the Animal Control Warden to enforce all City Ordinances pertaining to dogs and issue citations to those individuals who are in violation of these ordinances. This pamphlet has been prepared so that you as a pet owner will have a better understanding of your dog and your responsibilities.

### **WHAT ARE THE LAWS?**

- Female dogs in heat must be confined to the dog owner’s property. *Sec. 92.01(C)*
- All dogs must be licensed upon reaching three months of age and then, annually. *Sec. 92.08*
- All dogs must be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian
- within 30 days of reaching three months of age. This vaccination must be maintained by regular revaccination for the life of the animal. *Sec. 92.11 (A)*
- Dogs are not permitted to damage, deface or deposit waste on public or private property. The dog owner is responsible for the removal and proper disposal of all waste. *Sec. 92.13*
- Dogs are not permitted to annoy others by continuous barking or howling. *Sec. 92.14*
- Any dog that bites a person or domestic animal, on or off, the dog owner’s property may be seized by the Animal Warden upon petitioning the court. *Sec. 92.26(A)*
- When a dog is off it’s owner’s property the dog must be restrained by a leash and under control at all times. *Sec. 92.25 (B 1)*

### **DOG LICENSES**

Dog licenses are obtained from Summit County. The fee for a dog license is \$14.00. A penalty of \$14.00 shall be assessed if the dog is not licensed by January 31st of each year, by the time the dog is three (3) months of age or within 30 days of the dog being acquired. (Sec.92.08) Licenses can be obtained at the Summit County Services Department, 1030 E. Tallmadge Ave. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 330-630-7226 for additional licensing information.

## **BARKING DOGS**

**CALL 3-1-1** from your home phone or 330-375-2311 from any phone. The Animal Warden will collect the relevant information from you and the dog owner will be notified regarding the violation, (Sec. 92.14). Continued or repetitive violations of this section may be referred to the Clerk of Courts for criminal prosecution. See Barking Dog Complaint Procedure.

## **DEAD ANIMALS**

The City will remove dead animals on public property, (i.e. within dedicated streets and highways). **CALL 3-1-1** from your home phone or 330-375-2311 from any phone.

**Wardens will not enter upon private property to remove dead animals.** Dead animals from private property are to be double bagged, in plastic only, tied securely and placed on the curb. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** No cardboard boxes, paper bags, etc. Bag and place the dead animal on the curb and **CALL 3-1-1** from your home phone or 330-375-2311 from any phone.

## **VACCINATIONS, TATTOOING & MICRO-CHIPPING**

Akron City Ordinances provide for rabies vaccination only through a licensed veterinarian. Identification for your dog or cat may be provided via tattoo or through a microchip implant. Consult the yellow pages of your telephone directory for licensed veterinarians providing these services.

## **CATS**

In June 2002 Akron's Animal Control Ordinance was amended to include cats. There is no license requirement. If you own a cat, please see that it is well cared for and does not become a nuisance to your neighbors or the community. A cat is picked up only when a resident makes a specific complaint about a cat at-large. Where a pet owner can be identified, the owner may be cited. Where the owner is unknown, cats are delivered to the Summit County Animal Control Facility, 250 Opportunity Parkway. The Summit County Health Department requires cats to be vaccinated for rabies under the Akron Health Code, (A.H.C.R. 1-1998). See Cats At-Large for more information.

## **ANIMAL WARDEN**

Animal Wardens are available 7 days a week. Call 3-1-1 from your home phone or 330-375-2311 from any phone Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. After hours, weekends or holidays, call the Akron Police Department at 330-375-2181 for dispatch services.

## **FOR EMERGENCY ONLY**

Weekdays after 4:30 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, call 9-1-1.

## **DOG BITES**

**Do not attempt to apprehend the dog yourself.** Contact the Animal Warden. **(3-1-1) or 330-375-2311**, and the Summit County Health Department, (330-375-2405), immediately. Seek medical treatment, if necessary. Any dog inflicting a bite on a mail carrier, delivery person, meter reader, utility company or City employee, or inflicts serious bodily harm to any person **on or off** the dog owner's property can be deemed vicious and the owner subject to penalties as prescribed by law including having the dog banned from the city. (*Sec. 92.25 (B2, B3, B5, & B6)*)

## **QUARANTINE**

Any dog, cat or ferret that inflicts a bite on a person or domestic animal must be kept under quarantine for a ten (10) day period of time. The bite animal must be confined at the owner's home, a veterinarian or kennel during this ten day period. The animal must be available for inspection by the City during the quarantine period. A violation of the quarantine period can subject the owner to a penalty or fine. (*Sec. 92.1 1(B)*)

## **UNWANTED DOMESTIC ANIMALS**

The Customer Service Division, through its Animal Control Wardens, will pick up, **for a fee**, unwanted owner's animals and transport them to the Summit County Animal Control Facility. This service is limited to domestic animals. **Only licensed dogs** will be accepted at the Summit County Animal Control Facility for disposal; other animals need not be licensed. Regulations and fees are set by Summit County. (*Sec.92. 16*)

## **KENNELS**

**Any pack or group of dogs over the amount of four and over the age of six months, kept together for any purpose constitutes a KENNEL.** No person shall operate a kennel within the corporate limits of the City unless said kennel is permitted under Chapter 153 (Zoning Code) of the Codified Ordinances. (*Sec. 92.28*)

## **DOGS IN CITY PARKS**

All dogs must be leashed and under control at all times. All dog owners or persons in control of dog(s) are responsible for removal and sanitary disposal of dog feces. Violators are subject to fines. *Ord. No. 231-1973*

### **A CHECK-LIST FOR POTENTIAL PET OWNERS**

Before buying or adopting a pet ask yourself the following questions:

- Q.** Will someone be at home to provide meals for the animal according to a fixed schedule?
- Q.** Will someone be at home most of the day to care for the animal and train it properly?
- Q.** Are you willing to exercise the animal daily?
- Q.** Are you willing and able to pay for all veterinary examinations, vaccinations, licensing and any emergency treatment that the animal may need?
- Q.** Are you willing to obey the Leash Laws and other laws pertaining to animals in this community?

**Q.** Are you committed to taking care of the animal for its lifetime?

If you are unable to answer “YES” to ALL of the above questions, you should carefully consider taking on the responsibilities of owning a pet. A pet will be a loyal friend if given the care and protection it deserves. In return, your pet will give YOU years of protection and companionship!

#### **“ADOPT” A DOG & LOST DOGS OR DOG REDEMPTION**

Contact the Summit County Animal Control Facility, located at 250 Opportunity Parkway: 330-643-2845.

#### **ANIMAL ABUSE AND CRUELTY**

Contact the Greater Akron Humane Society, 7996 Darrow Rd., Twinsburg, OH, 44236. 330-487-0333

#### **PIT BULL DOGS & OTHER REGULATED BREEDS OF DOGS**

Any person who owns, harbors or has in his care, custody or control a dog of the breed of Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, Canary Dog, Perro de Presa Canario, American Bull Dog, Old Country Bull Dog, or any mixed breed which contains elements of one or more of these breeds is subject to special regulations within the City of Akron. These rules also apply to the owner of any dog that is considered to be a ‘vicious dog’ under Section 93.25 (A)(B). There are severe penalties for the owner who fails to register such dog every year or who fails to otherwise comply with the law. **CALL 3-1-1** from your home phone, 330-375-2311 from any phone or contact the City of Akron Plans and Permits Center at 330-375-2010 for registration information. *See Akron Ordinance Section 92.25 (E).*

#### **OWNERS OF PIT BULL DOGS AND THE LAW – 10 POINTS TO REMEMBER**

According to the City Ordinance for the control of dogs Section 92.25 (E) any person owning keeping, possessing, harboring, or having care, custody or control of a Pit Bull or other regulated dog, as described above, must do **all** of the following:

1. Identify the dog by having the dog wear, at all times, a fluorescent green pit bull collar, available for a fee, from the City of Akron Plans and Permits Center, 1030 E. Tallmadge Avenue. (Sec. 92.25 (E)(1))
2. Provide two color photos of the dog to the City of Akron Plans and Permits Center at the time the collar is obtained and provide one color photo of the dog showing the tattoo number after the tattoo has been placed on the dog. (Sec 92.25 (E)(10))
3. Post on premises, in a conspicuous place where the dog is kept, a least one city-issued warning sign, available for a fee, from the City of Akron Plans and Permits Center. The sign shall be visible and capable of being read from the public highway or street. (Sec. 92.25 (E)(2))
4. Identify the dog by having the dog tattooed with a **code number** authorized by the City of Akron Plans and Permits Center. Also, if the dog owner would prefer to have the

dog micro-chipped by a licensed veterinarian rather than tattooing, this will also be accepted. All costs will be incurred by the dog owner. (Sec. 92.25 (E)(3))

5. Notify the City of Akron Plans and Permits Center at 375-2010 within 24 hours if the Pit Bull or other regulated dog has died, been sold or donated. The owner must provide the City of Akron Plans and Permits Center with the name, address, and telephone number of the new owner. (Sec. 92.25 (E)(4))

6. Pay an annual fee between January 2nd and January 20th. When a dog is newly obtained the owner must do the following:

- a. Register the dog with the City of Akron Plans and Permits Center.
- b. Provide, at the time of registration, proof of liability insurance, which is held through a state-authorized insurer and that provides coverage for each occurrence of no less than \$50,000 for damage, bodily injury or death of a person caused by the dog.
- c. Provide a certificate of insurance to the City of Akron Plans and Permits Center at the time the collar is obtained.

7. Keep the dog secured at all times in one of the following ways:

a. **Inside** – Secured inside the owner's home.

b. **Outside** – The dog must be:

- i. Securely confined in a locked enclosure which has a top and a concrete base with fencing securely attached or anchored to the concrete perimeter to a depth of six inches.

– **OR** –

- ii. Muzzled and on a chain link leash not more than six feet in length. The leash must be held by the hand of a person, who is of suitable age and discretion and is outside with the dog. (Sec. 92.25 (E)(5))

8. Ensure that the dog does not go unconfined on the premises of another or be at large within the City. (Sec. 92.25 (E)(7))

9. Obtain annual licenses from the Summit County Auditor for all regulated dogs, which are three months of age or older. A dog not wearing a license tag will be considered unlicensed. (Sec. 92.25 (E)(8))

10. Obtain rabies vaccinations for the dog from a licensed veterinarian and have the dog revaccinated at regular intervals for the life of the dog. The dog must wear rabies vaccination tags issued by a licensed veterinarian at all times. A dog not wearing a rabies tag will be considered to be unvaccinated. (Sec. 92.25 (E)(9))

## **PENALTY**

Any person who owns or harbors a dog of the breed of Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Bull Dog, American Staffordshire Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, Canary Dog, Perro de Presa Canario, American Bulldog, Old Country Bulldog or any mixed breed which contains elements of one or more of these breeds and is convicted of or pleads guilty to any violation of Section 92.25 (E) outlined in the above requirements may be subject to a fine and/or jail time. This also applies to the owners of 'vicious dogs'.

## ANIMAL ORDINANCES

If you have any questions pertaining to the City of Akron, Code of Ordinances with respect to dogs, please feel free to contact:

**City of Akron Contact Center:**

**3-1-1 or 330-375-2311**

– Or –

**City of Akron Plans and**

**Permits Center: 330-375-2010**

(FAX: 330-375-2102)

Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR ANIMAL RELATED SERVICES

Animal Warden (M-F 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM) . . . . .	3-1-1 or 330-375-2311
Animal Warden (After hours, Holidays, and Weekends) . . . . .	330-375-2181
The City of Akron Plans and Permits Center. . . . .	330-375-2010
Dog License (Summit County License Bureau) . . . . .	330-630-7226
Summit County Health Department . . . . .	330-375-2405
Humane Society . . . . .	330-487-0333
Municipal Courts (Citations) . . . . .	330-375-2570
Pit Bull Registration (City of Akron Plans & Permits Center) . . . . .	330-375-2010
Police <b>Emergency Only</b> . . . . .	<b>9-1-1</b>
Prosecutor's Office. . . . .	330-375-2730
Rodent Control. . . . .	3-1-1 or 330-375-2311
Summit County Animal Facility . . . . .	330-643-2845
O.D.N.R. – Wildlife. . . . .	330-644-2293

## BARKING DOG COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

1. Complaint is received by a Customer Service Representative at the 3-1-1 call center:  
330-375-2311
2. Information is taken from the complainant. This includes the name, address, phone number of the complainant, and the address of the dog owner. (The name and phone number of the dog owner is appreciated, but not required.)
3. No complaints processed by the City of Akron are anonymous because of the Public Records Law. Your testimony, and the testimony of any of your witnesses, will be required to prosecute the complaint.
4. The Animal Control Warden (ACW) contacts the complainant and records the complaint (which **includes** dates and times of the barking dog violation), and at least two names and names and addresses of corroborating witnesses who don't reside with the complainant. The names and addresses of the corroborating witnesses must be given at the time the report is taken.
5. The ACW then contacts the owner of the barking dog. Their name, address, and phone number are placed on the report. They are advised of the Barking Dog Laws and of the complainants' procedures. Any response to the alleged complaint they wished to be placed in the report will be recorded.

If no one is home, a door card is left

for follow up by the ACW

6. The complaint is signed by the ACW and turned into the Customer Service Office located at 146 S. High St., room 700. The ACW has completed this complaint involving this complainant and this dog owner.
7. The complaint is kept on file for one (1) year from the date of the reports completion. If the complainant believes the problem has not been rectified after the report has been completed, and it is within one (1) year of the reports completion date. . .
8. The complainant must go to 146 S. High St., Room 700 and pick up a copy of the report. Then proceed to 217 S. High St., Room 742, and begin the prosecution process against the dog owner.

### **POLICY ON WILDLIFE CALLS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY**

This policy statement addresses calls for service from the public concerning wildlife on private property. The primary responsibility of City of Akron Animal Control is to enforce City Ordinances and/or Ohio Revised Code as it pertains to domestic animals (i.e. dogs). Ordinances concerning the keeping of exotic animals are the purview of the Summit County Health Department.

While the City understands that wildlife can be a nuisance and cause damage to private property, this agency is not responsible for wildlife control. However, an Animal Control Warden may remove wildlife, **for a fee**, that has been trapped by the property owner and left in the trap or captured and secured in a box. Animal Wardens will not attempt to capture or remove deer from private property. In order to reduce problems associated with nuisance animals, home owners should attempt to eliminate sources of food that these animals scavenge. Make sure lids on refuse containers are tightly secured and weighted down, if necessary, to discourage raccoons and opossums. Persons whose residence or property abut the Metro Parks, Cuyahoga Valley Recreation area other wooded locations, are advised that this agency will not issue traps for the areas. Calls for service concerning wildlife will be handled in the order received and based upon the availability of Animal Control personnel. Nuisance animals include raccoons, opossums, squirrels, groundhogs (woodchucks), muskrats, foxes, bats, weasels, mink, and rabbits. The following policy is in place for nuisance wildlife:

- For a \$25.00 refundable deposit the Animal Control Warden can provide the use of a live trap, based upon availability; A signed release, holding the City harmless for any and all liability resulting in use of the trap, and a twenty dollar (\$20.00) disposal fee for each captured adult animal or each litter is required.
- Trapping of nuisance wildlife is limited to native, non-domestic quadrupeds (i.e. raccoons, opossums, etc.). Traps will not be issued for trapping of squirrels out-of-doors. For skunks, consult a nuisance trapper.
- Other than removing confined wildlife (i.e. in a trap or secured in a box) the Animal Warden will not attempt to capture these animals on private property, except as noted under the section below.
- Problems inside dwellings, attics, etc., should be referred to private individuals (locally licensed trappers) as listed in the Summit County Nuisance Wild Animal Trappers list. Consult the Ameritech Yellow Pages under Pest Control Services

- and/or under Animal Removal Services for firms engaged in nuisance animal removal.
- Current policy involving removal of live trapped nuisance wildlife requires all animals be euthanized; this is a mandate from the State of Ohio, Dept. of Natural Resources. Animals are not released in Metro Parks, wooded areas, or outside corporate limits.
  - The Animal Warden will not remove wildlife from inside dwellings, garages, sheds, ceilings, attics, walls, crawl spaces, under porches, eaves, in fireplaces, chimneys or flues, on roofs, in garbage cans, dumpsters, culverts, inlets, or trees.
  - The same rules concerning dead animals on private property pertains to dead wildlife. The caller must securely double bag, in plastic, and place it on the curb for removal.
  - Sick and/or injured wildlife or wildlife that has inflicted a bite on a domestic animal or human may be removed from private property, when feasible. Each instance will be investigated on a case by case basis. Test specimens will be submitted for rabies testing in concert with current bite protocol or upon the recommendation of the Summit County Health Director or his designate.

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